

WI-282  
Sarah E. Travers House  
Nanticoke  
Private

c. 1890-1900

Dating to the last decade of the nineteenth century, the Sarah E. Travers house is stands within a few hundred feet of the Nanticoke River shoreline at a site historically known as Quarter Landing. In contrast with many of the turn of the century dwellings that stand in Nanticoke, this house was built in the form of a T, with the leg of the tee serving as the main facade. The south wall of the front section is a three-sided bay pavilion covered by a gable roof. Encircling the front portion of the house is a Tuscan columned porch that repeats the three-sided principal elevation. Cross gables and corbeled cap chimneys add further definition and interest to the steeply pitched gable roof of the main block.

Chain of title research for this property traces ownership back to the early twentieth century occupancy of Sarah E. Travers, who raised her family in this house. Her last will and testament, written in 1923 and probated fifteen years later, bequeathed "all of my oyster grounds wherever the same may be located together with all the oysters planted or growing thereon" to her two children, Adah Travers Walter and R. Edward Travers, in equal shares. To her physically challenged daughter Rose she left the bulk of her estate. In 1944 the river-front property was sold to Herman S. and Edith S. Turner for the benefit of Rose Travers. Two years later, the Turners conveyed their title to Newell W. Messick of Baltimore City, who retained ownership until 1970. Messick family tenure on the property continued until 1983.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Sarah E. Travers House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-282

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):     Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):             Single-family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. WI-282

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Sarah E. Travers House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 20456 Quarter Landing Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Leon Victor Gue and Phyllis M. Gue

street & number 20456 Quarter Landing Road telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code MD 21840

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 74  
liber 984

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 838

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-282

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Sarah E. Travers house is located at 20456 Quarter Landing Road in the river village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating around 1890-1900, the two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame house is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is fully covered with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house is joined on the lot by a garage and in-ground pool.

The front of the house is formed by the projecting leg of the tee plan with a wraparound Tuscan columned porch extending the structure on each side. A rectangular baluster handrail stretches between the Tuscan columns. The south face of the tee is a three-sided bay with a gable roof cover extending beyond the corners of the bayed front. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and a multi-pane window pierces the gable end. The east and west side of the front leg are marked by single-pane sash windows on the first floor and two-over-two sash windows on the second floor. Centered on the roof of each elevation is a cross gable pierced by a multi-pane attic window. Fixed in the northern most bay of each side is an entrance filled with an oval window door. A single flue brick stove chimney rises through the roof, and it is finished with a corbeled cap. The eaves to the roof are extended and the soffits are enclosed.

The rear section of the house forms the cross of the tee plan. A combination of single-pane and two-over-two sash windows light the first and second floors to each side of interior end brick stove chimneys.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Dating to the last decade of the nineteenth century, the Sarah E. Travers house is stands within a few hundred feet of the Nanticoke River shoreline at a site historically known as Quarter Landing. In contrast with many of the turn of the century dwellings that stand in Nanticoke, this house was built in the form of a T, with the leg of the tee serving as the main facade. The south wall of the front section is a three-sided bay pavilion covered by a gable roof. Encircling the front portion of the house is a Tuscan columned porch that repeats the three-sided principal elevation. Cross gables and corbeled cap chimneys add further definition and interest to the steeply pitched gable roof of the main block.

This house deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical merit. The Sarah E. Travers house contributes to the historic nature of Nanticoke.

Chain of title research for this property traces ownership back to the early twentieth century occupancy of Sarah E. Travers, who raised her family in this house. Her last will and testament, written in 1923 and probated fifteen years later, bequeathed “all of my oyster grounds wherever the same may be located together with all the oysters planted or growing thereon” to her two children, Adah Travers Walter and R. Edward Travers, in equal shares. To her physically challenged daughter Rose she left the bulk of her estate.(1) In 1944 the river-front property was sold to Herman S. and Edith S. Turner for the benefit of Rose Travers.(2) Two years later, the Turners conveyed their title to Newell W. Messick of Baltimore City, who retained ownership until 1970.(3) Messick family tenure on the property was maintained until 1983.(4)

1 Wicomico County Will Book, JAH 1/245, proved 8/15/1938, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JWS 264/447, 10/27/1944, Wicomico County Courthouse.

(Continued)

Survey No. WI-282

## PS-2746

## **8.1 SIGNIFICANCE**

**Sarah E. Travers House, WI-282  
20456 Quarter Landing Road  
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland**

## **FOOTNOTES**

**3 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 279/207, 7/6/1946, Wicomico County Courthouse.**

**4 Wicomico County Land Record, 984/838, 1/2/1983, Wicomico County Courthouse.**

WI-282  
Sarah E. Travers House  
20456 Quarter Landing Road  
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 74

984/838                      Newell W. Messick, Jr.  
Jean F. Messick  
Lee Messick  
Vaughan M. McClure

to

1/2/1983                      Leon Victor Gué III  
Phyllis M. Gué

AJS 909/208                      Newell W. Messick, widower, Baltimore County, Maryland

to

10/6/1970                      Newell W. Messick, Jr.  
Jean Messick  
Lee Messick  
Vaughan M. McClure

JWTS 279/207                      Herman S. Turner  
Edith S. Turner

to

7/6/1946                      Newell W. Messick, City of Baltimore  
  
Located at the "Quarter Landing" 4 acres



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20456 Quarter Landing Road  
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

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JWS 264/447

William W. Travers, Committee of Rose Travers,  
Incompetent by Item 1

to

10/27/1944

Herman S. Turner  
Edith S. Turner

JAH 1/245

Last Will and Testament of Sarah E. Travers

to

Written  
5/26/1923  
Proved  
8/15/1938

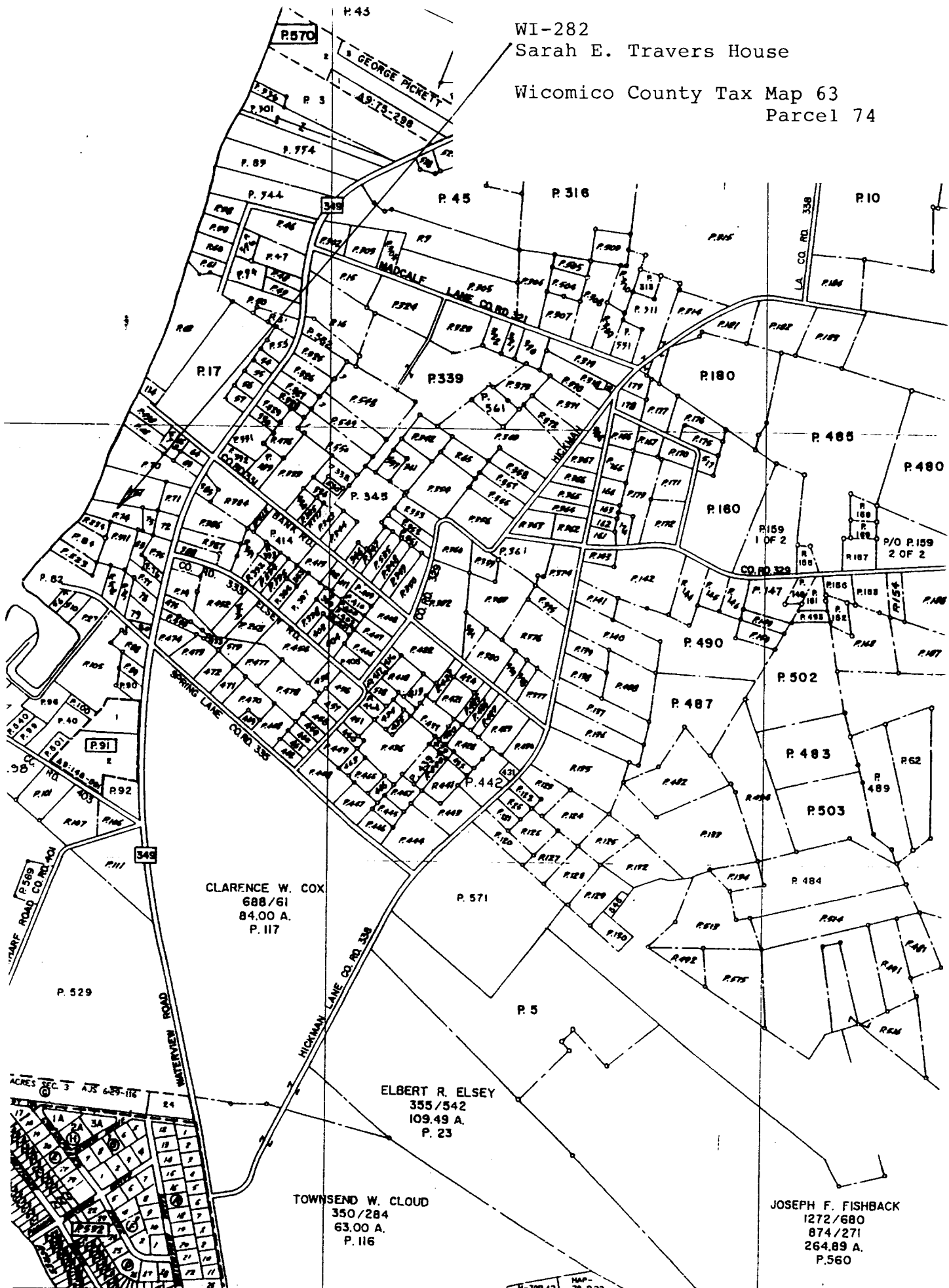
Rose Travers

3rd Item: I give and bequeath unto my two children  
Adah T. Walter and R. Edward Travers all of my  
oyster grounds wherever the same may be located  
together with all oysters planted or growing thereon,  
share and share alike

4th Item: All the rest and residue of my estate, real  
and personal, of every kind and wheresoever situate,  
I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Rose  
Travers, her heirs, personal representatives and  
assigns. My reason for making greater provision for  
my said daughter, Rose Travers, than for my other  
children is due to the fact that she will require special  
care and attention and because of her physical  
condition, I deem it my first duty to see that she is  
properly cared for, realizing fully that my other  
children will recognize the justice of the provision  
which I am making for my said daughter

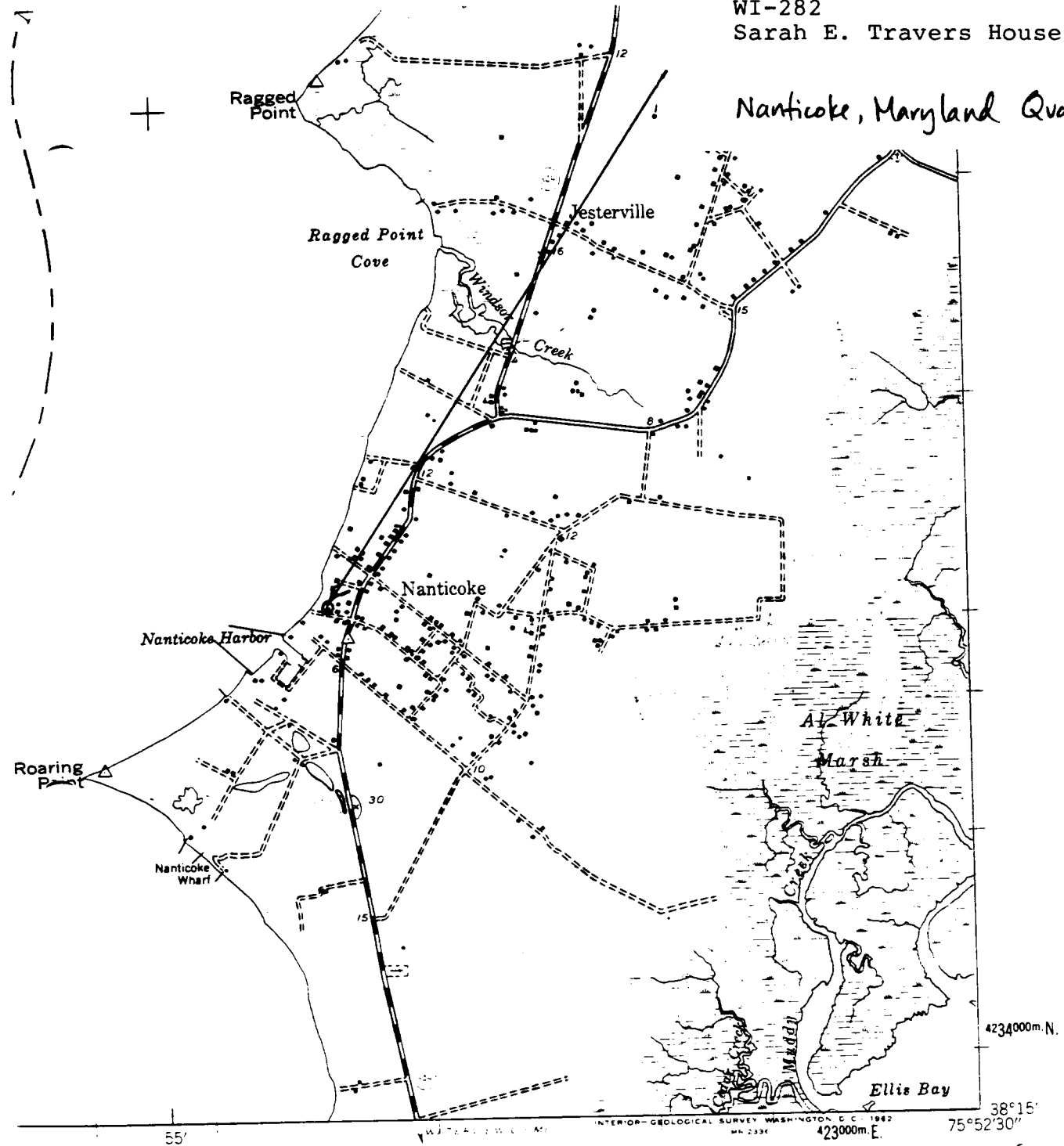
WI-282  
Sarah E. Travers House

Wicomico County Tax Map 63  
Parcel 74

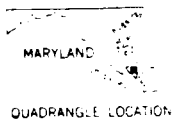


WI-282  
Sarah E. Travers House

Nanticoke, Maryland Quad, 1942



1 MILE  
7000 FEET  
METER



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty

Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route

NANTICOKE, MD.

SW 1/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3815-W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUA













